

Drainage Catheter Placement

Patient Information Sheet

A drainage catheter is a small, flexible rubber tube that has been inserted into a pocket of fluid. The tube allows fluid to leave the body and relieve pressure in the area. The Radiologist may have chosen to use ultrasound or CT guidance to ensure the placement of the drain.

If a specimen has been sent for testing, pathology results may take 7-10 days for complete analysis. Make an appointment to see your Doctor to get the results.

We are sensitive to your needs and concerns and want to let you know your safety and well-being are our primary concern. This information will help you understand the recovery process.

Instructions after Drainage Catheter Placement

This Evening

- Do not drive home.
- Rest for the remainder of the day.
 - ==> Do not lift anything weighing over 5 kilograms (10 pounds) for the next 24 hours.
 - ==> Do not participate in sports or strenuous activity for ____ hours.
- Keep the bag lower than the insertion site to help with drainage.
- Watch for kinks in the tubing as this can stop the flow.
- Empty the drainage bag from the spout at the bottom. Do not disconnect the bag as this opens the system and can lead to infection.

Diet

- You can eat what you normally eat.

Medications

- If needed for pain or discomfort, take Tylenol (acetaminophen) for the next 48 hours. Follow the directions on the label.
- **DO NOT** use Aspirin or ibuprofen products, such as Advil or Motrin, as it may increase bleeding.



Dressing Care/Sutures

- You must change the dressing if it becomes soiled or wet.
- Please change the dressing around the tube at least once per week.
- The drainage bag should be changed every seven (7) days.

Bathing

- You may shower or sponge bath, but keep the dressing dry.
- Use plastic wrap to completely cover and protect the dressing by taping it to your skin.
- **DO NOT** bathe or swim (especially in lakes) while the tube is in place; submersing the catheter increases the chances of developing an infection.

What to watch for

- Fever more than 100°F (38°C) or chills
- Increasing pain at the site
- Redness, swelling, or leakage from the site
- A foul odor or pus is present
- If you have stitches that become loose or break
- If there is little to no drainage
- If the catheter becomes dislodged or pulled out, **DO NOT** attempt to reinsert the tube yourself. Contact your doctor as soon as possible. The tube is easily replaced if done as quickly as possible after it has fallen out.

If you experience any of the above changes call your doctor, Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000), or go to your closest Emergency Department. Take this sheet with you.

Date: mm / dd / yy

Radiologist: *(print first, last)* _____

